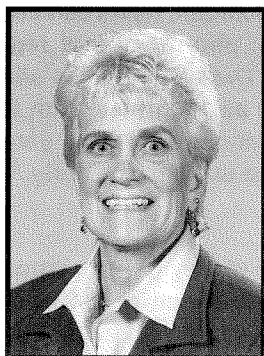


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BOOKLETS AVAILABLE The Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness published a passport-sized handbook outlining preparedness steps in case of a public health emergency. The free booklet titled "Preparing For A Public Health Emergency – What You Need To Know" provides guidelines individuals can use to prepare for a public health emergency. Preparedness tips listed in the publication include family discussions on the disasters most likely to happen, what each family member should do in a time of emergency, and essential supplies needed during emergency situations. The booklet also contains a fill-in-the-blank area to record personal health information which may be necessary for receiving medical services during an emergency. To obtain a copy of this booklet, contact your local health department. For other sources of family preparedness information, visit the federal Department of Homeland Security website at www.ready.gov or call the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Public Response Hotline, toll-free, at 800-CDC-INFO.

DID YOU KNOW? Historically, flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster and can happen in every U.S. state and territory.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE PROMOTES ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES Legislation recently passed by both the Michigan Senate and House will make renewable fuels more widely available in Michigan. Senate Bills 1074-1079 are designed to promote growth in Michigan's agriculture industry and encourage the use of E85, a clean-burning high-octane fuel made naturally from renewable sources such as corn kernels and soybean oil. The legislation would provide motor fuel tax cuts on the purchase of renewable fuels, set quality-control standards for biodiesel and hydrogen fuels, require all state vehicles to fill up with E85 and creates 10 alternative energy targeted zones in Michigan where alternative fuels would be developed. Currently, there are only four pumps in Michigan that provide E85 fuel. The renewable fuels legislation package has been presented to the Governor for approval.

NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUGS WEBSITE INTRODUCED Comparing prices of medications has now been made easier thanks to a new prescription drugs website recently launched. Created by the State of Michigan, users can access the website and search for the 30 most commonly prescribed drugs in Michigan by price, pharmacy and region, making prescription shopping and decision-making more convenient for Michigan residents. The website also allows users to search for pharmacies, within Michigan's borders, that are closest to them or as far as 100 miles from their homes. The website contains an RX price finder search engine, links to prescription assistance programs, general medication descriptions and pharmacy contact information, since prices for prescription drugs can change daily. Visit www.michigandrugprices.com to start your prescription drug comparison shopping today.

FREE PUBLICATION AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH SUMMER TRAVEL PLANS There are plenty of opportunities for Michigan's residents and families to explore and discover the state's many attractions this summer. The 2006 *Michigan Travel Ideas* magazine is a free publication which highlights interesting and fun things to do in the state. The guide includes information about the state's many beautiful beaches, golf courses, and other appealing destinations. To receive a copy of the travel guide, contact my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238. Also, those who have access to the internet can request a guide by visiting the state's website at <http://www.michigan.org/travel/michigantravelideas/>.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov